

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following new section on page 1, line 13, just prior to "Field of the Invention":

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT SPONSORED RESEARCH

A' This invention was made with Government support under contract F29601-99-C-0136 awarded by the United States Air Force. The government has certain rights in the invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1, as follows:

A² A lens 22 is provided ~~before~~ after pump source 16 for focusing pump light 20 and directing it to an input coupler 24 of Q-switched laser 12. Input coupler 24 is designed to admit pump light 20 into a cavity 26 of passively Q-switched laser 12. Cavity 26 has a length L defined between input coupler 24 and an output coupler 28. Although in the present embodiment cavity 26 is linear and couplers 24, 28 are in the form of mirrors, a person skilled in the art will appreciate that other types of cavities and coupling elements can be used.
